



**COMSECONDFLT Public Affairs**  
Voice: 757-443-9850, x47122/Fax: 7757-443-9805  
POC: Cmdr. Conrad Chun  
<http://www.secondfleet.navy.mil/>



**C2F 06-17MA**

**May 17, 2006**

***USS Saipan headed to the Med  
for Multinational Exercise  
“Phoenix Express”***

Norfolk, Va. – Amphibious assault ship USS Saipan (LHA-2) will depart from its homeport in Norfolk on **Thursday, May 18** to participate in the multinational exercise “Phoenix Express” in the Sixth Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR).

“Phoenix Express” includes participants from France, Morocco, Tunisia, and Spain. The multi-national exercise is focused on developing the individual and collective maritime proficiencies of participating nations. The exercise will promote friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation with regional partners.

Amphibious Group Two, Amphibious Squadron Eight, Commander, Captain Robert W. Bougher and staff will embark on board USS Saipan for the duration of the exercise. Detachments from HCS-26, ACU-2 and Fleet Surgical Team will also be embarked for the exercise. USS Saipan is scheduled to return to Norfolk in July.

**-C2F-**

**NOTE: For information on USS Saipan’s departure contact Second Fleet Public Affairs at (757) 443-9850, x47127.**

**-C2F-**